

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please rewrite the paragraph appearing at page 7, lines 20-21 as follows:

Figure 2 represents a perspective view of the bottom of one of the flexible ~~blades~~ strip assemblies shown in figure 1.

Please rewrite the paragraph appearing at page 10, line 9 to page 11, line 3 as follows:

Figure 1 shows a general perspective view of an embodiment according to the invention. The valves are partially represented as will be discussed below. Thus in this figure, the flexible film 7 as well as all of the elements that make up the valve inside the body of the card 1 are not represented although they are actually present. Nevertheless, the elements which are represented are important. Firstly, a strip assembly 13 can be seen which is made up of several tabs 8 and is fixed on the card 1 by a securing means 23. These tabs 8 extend onto one fo the sides of the strip assembly 13 more or less perpendicularly to this ~~tab~~ strip assembly 13, with all of the tabs 8 being parallel to each other. In addition, the distance separating two adjacent tabs 8 is constant, in such a way that there is a space separating all of the adjacent tabs 8. Preferably, this distance is identical to the spacing used in electronic applications, in order to reduce the cost of

manufacturing ~~blades~~ strip assemblies 13 or to use actuators which already exist in the background art. Such spacing may be between 1 and 5mm, and more precisely is equal to 3.96mm, 2.54mm or 1.28mm.

Please rewrite the paragraph appearing at page 11, lines 4-16 as follows:

At the level of said ~~blade~~ strip assembly 13, there is direct contact between the body of the card 1, and of course between the film 7, not shown in this figure, and this ~~blade~~ strip assembly 13. Toward the right-hand side of the figure, an oblique face can be seen then a face parallel to the upper surface of the card 1 and finally another oblique face, both oblique faces forming an angle of more or less 90° between them, although this value is in no way limiting. At the bottom of the second oblique face, there is another parallel face near the upper surface of the card 1. This face enables the channel 3, that is integral with the underlying valve 2, to be directly opened or closed. On the right-hand side of this face there is a last beveled face 12 designed to synergize with a piston-type actuator 14, located at the far right of this figure.

Please rewrite the paragraph appearing at page 11, lines 17-22 as follows:

The head of the piston-type actuator 14 is cone shaped; this shape allows the head to engage between the beveled edge 12 of the opening means of the flexible tab 8 and the beveled surface 19 of the card 1. This beveled surface 19 is present between the first upper face 4 and the edge 6 of said card 1, with this card 1 also including a second lower face 5.

Please rewrite the paragraph appearing at page 12, lines 5-8 as follows:

In both figures 1 and 3, it can be seen that the whole set of piston-type actuators 14 is mounted on a support 16, while each piston-type actuator 14 is supplied with compressed air in the direction of F1 or F2 by means of compressed air hoses 15.

Please rewrite the paragraph appearing at page 12, lines 9-15 as follows:

In figure 3 and in combination with figure 1, it is easier to understand how this device works. When compressed air enters the hose 15, the ~~piston~~ piston-type actuator 14 is displaced in the direction of F3 and the tab 8 is pushed in the direction of F4. When, conversely, the compressed air leaves the system in the direction of F2, the movements of the ~~piston~~ piston-type actuator

14 and the tab 8 are reversed in relation to arrows F3 and F4 in figure 3.

Please rewrite the paragraph appearing at page 14, line 16 to page 15, line 3 as follows:

According to a second embodiment of the invention, the role of said flexible tab 8 can be reversed. Thus, in figure 7, it can be seen that the flexible tab according to another embodiment features a closing means or wedge 18 at its free end which is opposite of that shown in other figures 1 through 3. It can be noted that the ~~piston~~ piston-type actuator 14 does not act below the wedge 18 but on top of it, in such a manner that when said ~~piston~~ piston-type actuator 14 is in position, as shown in figure 7, the valve is open. However, as soon as compressed air is injected in the direction of F1, the actuator moves in the direction of F3 and the tab moves in the direction of F7, that is downward which closes the underlying valve.

Please rewrite the paragraph appearing at page 15, line 19 to page 16, line 2 as follows:

The inspection area 32 consists of a framework featuring two uprights or worm screws 27, which, by turning simultaneously, allow the movement of a mobile trolley 16 which supports all of the

piston-type actuators or ~~electromagnets~~ electromagnet-type actuator

14. Each of these ~~electromagnets~~ electromagnet-type actuators 14 has a piston which can be moved longitudinally from the left to the right of figures 12 and 13 or vice versa.

Please rewrite the sub-paragraph appearing at page 16, lines 6-9 as follows:

a fixed guide plate 25 for the valve 2 maneuvering pins 24, the valves 2 being supported by the cards 1 located in the storage area 31, as a result of the application of the ~~electromagnets~~ electromagnet-type actuators 14 of the inspection area 32,

Please rewrite the paragraph appearing at page 16, lines 13-17 as follows:

In figures 12 and 13, it can be seen that there are as many pins 24 as there are valves 2, although there is just one ~~electromagnet~~ electromagnet-type actuator 14 for the valves 2 of the same card 1. Of course, this is not limiting and it is possible to have several ~~electromagnets~~ electromagnet-type actuators 14 for the valves 2 of the same card 1.

Please rewrite the paragraph appearing at page 16, line 17 to page 17, line 7 as follows:

Programming of the position of the valves, either open or closed, is thus performed by removing the counter plate 26 in order to disengage the previous positions of the pins 24, by activating the ~~electromagnets~~ electromagnet-type actuators 14 in order to place said pins 24 in either an "in" or "out" position in relation to said plate 26, and by replacing the counter plate 26 so that the position of the pins is in relation with the open or closed valves that are desired. Tests have shown that only 100 milliseconds (ms) are required to program all of the valves 2 located in the same plane on the cards 1, by means of all the actuators 14. When there are ten (10) valves 2 per card 1 and ten (10) cards 1 are activated, 2.5 seconds are required to change the configuration of four hundred seventy (470) valves 1.

Please rewrite reference 23 appearing at page 19, line 23 as follows:

23. ~~Blade~~ Strip assembly 13 securing means